

Oil rises on expectations of Egypt regime change

Read Business Section Pages B8 & B9

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News E-mail: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Friday, February 11, 2011

New method opens vast oil fields



A new drilling technique is opening up vast fields of previously out-of-reach oil in the western United States, helping reverse a two-decade decline in domestic production of crude.

Companies are investing billions of dollars to get at oil deposits scattered across North Dakota, Colorado, Texas and California. By 2015, oil executives and analysts say, the new fields could yield as much as 2 million barrels of oil a day — more than the entire Gulf of Mexico produces now.

This new drilling is expected to raise U.S. production by at least 20 percent over the next five years. And within 10 years, it could help reduce oil imports by more than half, advancing a goal that has long eluded policymakers.

“That’s a significant contribution to energy security,” says Ed Morse, head of commodities research at Credit Suisse. □



“Just step down”

An anti-government protester holds up his shoes as people react as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak makes a televised statement to his nation in Tahrir Square in downtown Cairo, Egypt Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak announced he is handing his powers over to his vice president, Omar Suleiman, and ordered constitutional amendments Thursday. But the move means he retains his title of president and ensures regime control over the reform process, falling short of protester demands. Protesters in Cairo’s central Tahrir Square, hoping he would announce his resignation outright, reacted in fury and disbelief.

Associated Press

Mubarak hands powers to VP

By HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt’s Hosni Mubarak refused to step down or leave the country and instead handed his powers to his vice president Thursday, remaining president and ensuring regime control over the reform process. Stunned protesters in central Cairo who demand his ouster waved their shoes in contempt and shouted, “Leave, leave, leave.”

The rapidly moving events raised the question of whether a rift had opened between Mubarak and the military command. Hours earlier, a council of the military’s top generals announced it had stepped in to secure the country, and a senior commander announced to protesters in Tahrir Square that all their demands would soon be met, raising cries of victory that Mubarak was on his way out. After Mubarak’s speech,

protest organizers called for the army to take action to oust him, and they vowed increased protests on Friday. Several hundred thousand had packed into Tahrir Square, ecstatic with expectation that Mubarak would announce his resignation in his nighttime address. Instead, they watched in shocked silence as he spoke, slapping their foreheads in anger and disbelief. Some broke into tears.

Continued on Next Page

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Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak begins to make a televised statement to his nation in this image taken from TV aired Thursday Feb. 10, 2011. Following more than two weeks of protests, anti-government demonstrators have been given hope by official statements suggesting that President Mubarak may step down after 30 years in power.

Associated Press

MUBARAK - Continued from Front Page

Around a 1,000 marched on the state television headquarters several blocks away, guarded by the military with barbed wire and tanks. "They are the liars," the crowd shouted, pointing at the building, chanting, "We won't leave, they will leave."

Prominent reform advocate, Nobel Peace laureate Mohamed ElBaradei, whose supporters were among the organizers of the 17-day-old wave of protests, issued a Tweet calling on the military to act.

"The army must save the country now," he said. "I call on the Egyptian army to immediately interfere to rescue Egypt. The credibility of the army is on the line."

Mohammed Mustapha, a protest spokesman, said, "We are waiting for a strong reaction from the army to Mubarak's speech." He said "huge numbers" of protesters were expected Friday and that many wanted to march on the Oruba palace, Mubarak's main presidential palace several miles away from Tahrir.

Immediately after Mubarak's speech, Vice President Omar Suleiman called on the protesters to "go home" and asked Egyptians to "unite and look to the future."

In his 17-minute speech on state TV, Mubarak spoke as if he were still in charge, saying he was "adamant to continue to shoulder my responsibility to protect the constitution and safeguard the interests of the people." He vowed that he would remain in the country and

said he was addressing the youth in Tahrir as "the president of the republic."

"I saw fit to delegate the authorities of the president to the vice president, as dictated in the constitution," said Mubarak, who looked frail but spoke in a determined, almost defiant voice.

Suleiman was already leading the regime's efforts to deal with the crisis. The constitution allows the president to transfer his powers if he is unable to carry out his duties "due to any temporary obstacle," but it does not mean his resignation. Even in that case, the vice president still cannot request constitutional amendments or dissolve parliament.

Mubarak insisted on the continuation of a government-dominated process for reform that Suleiman drew up and that protesters have roundly rejected because they fear it will mean only cosmetic change and not real democracy. Under that system, a panel of judges and lawyers put together by Suleiman recommends constitutional changes, while a separate panel monitors to ensure that state promises are carried out.

Suleiman has also offered dialogue with the protesters and opposition over the nature of reforms. He has not explained how the negotiations fit in if the judges panel, which is led by Mubarak supporters, is recommending amendments. In any case, the protesters and opposition have resolutely refused talks until Mubarak goes. □

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Mobster fugitive captured in rural Idaho

MARSING, Idaho — For more than a decade, the vast farm fields of rural southwestern Idaho provided Enrico Ponzo the isolation he needed to hide from his past as a former New England mobster accused of trying to whack his boss.

He introduced himself to his neighbors as Jeffrey Shaw, a man who went by the nickname "Jay." He paid for everything in cash. He bought his house in his girlfriend's name. But his past proved a stubborn companion.

Ponzo couldn't hide his vaguely New York accent. He couldn't keep his stories straight. He couldn't hide his expertise with a gun during a trip to the local shooting range. And in a community

where Ponzo was surrounded by wide open ranch land, his neighbors could tell he didn't know anything about farming.

The past Ponzo tried to bury finally came calling this week, when federal agents arrived at a subdivision in Marsing and shattered the life he had so carefully crafted.

In a federal courtroom Wednesday, Ponzo pulled the mask off Jeffrey Shaw.

"My name is Enrico M. Ponzo," he said, wearing a yellow jumpsuit with his hands cuffed behind his back. After the judge read a long list of charges against him, Ponzo pleaded not guilty. He was



appointed a public defender and ordered him held without bail until another hearing Friday.

Meanwhile, a tiny farming and ranching community about 40 miles west of Boise was left to wonder how all of them got duped, and for so long. His neighbors reached back as far as they could into their memories, scouring for signs of an elaborate ruse. Some found vindication.

"We always felt that something was a little strange," said Sharie Kinney, a neighbor.

To them, he was Jay Shaw, who worked as a graphic designer from home and was known for fixing computers. He raised about a dozen cows and lived in a light green two-story home on a hilltop with his girlfriend, who moved out of the house several months ago with their two small children.

To the FBI, he was a New England mobster who vanished in 1994 after a botched attempt to kill his boss.

Ponzo now faces charges from a 1997 indictment accusing him and 14 others of racketeering, attempted murder and conspiracy to kill rivals. He is also charged in the 1989 attempted murder of Frank Salemme. Known as "Cadillac Frank," Salemme

is the ex-head of the Patriarca Family of La Cosa Nostra. Authorities declined to say how the FBI discovered him. During his arrest Monday, agents seized 38 firearms, \$15,000 and a 100-ounce bar

of either gold or silver from the home. Neighbors say Ponzo moved into the community, which sits at the base of the Owyhee Mountains in southwestern Idaho, about 10 or 11 years ago. □

Guilty In New York

NEW YORK (AP) — A business consultant has pleaded guilty to paying bribes as part of a scheme to land lucrative government contracts related to New York City's effort to computerize its worker timekeeping system.

Victor Natanzon, 49, pleaded guilty Tuesday to a four-count criminal complaint that also accused him of money laundering. The plea happened before a federal judge in Manhattan. It was not announced at the time and didn't become publicly known until Thursday.

Natanzon is one of several people charged criminally in a scandal involving New York's so-called City Time project, an effort to modernize the way the city keeps track of employee working hours. On Thursday, a grand jury filed an indictment updating charges against four other consultants accused of secretly steering \$80 million in government work to companies they controlled. New charges were also filed against a fifth defendant accused of using a shell company to launder proceeds of the fraud.

As part of his deal, Natanzon has agreed to pay restitution and cooperate with investigators. Authorities have said their inquiry into the contract-skimming scheme is ongoing.

Joel Bondy, the executive director of the city officer overseeing the payroll project, was suspended the day after the arrests in December. Natanzon admitted to delivering a \$20,000 bribe to an official who wasn't named in court papers.

Two lawyers listed for Natanzon in court records, Tony Mirvis and Igor Niman, didn't immediately respond to phone calls and e-mails Thursday. □

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Arizona sues government on Mexico border security



PHOENIX — Arizona on Thursday filed a lawsuit against the federal government, alleging that

Washington has failed to secure the state's porous border with Mexico.

Gov. Jan Brewer and state Attorney General Tom Horne, both Republicans, told a news conference that they filed a counter suit against the government in federal court in Phoenix.

The suit is in response to a government lawsuit last year blocking key parts of the state's tough law cracking down on illegal immigrants.

"Because the federal government has failed to protect the citizens ... of Arizona, I am left with no other

choice," Brewer told reporters at a news conference in central Phoenix, as several boisterous protesters attempted to shout her down.

"We did not want this fight. We did not start this fight. But, now that we are in it, Arizona will not rest until our border is secured and federal immigration laws are enforced," she added.

In Washington, a Justice Department spokesman declined to comment on the Arizona suit.

The desert state straddles a furiously trafficked corridor for human and drug smugglers

from Mexico, and is the principal gateway for illegal immigrants entering the United States.

The suit detailed five separate counts, including allegations that the government had failed to achieve "operational control" over the border, enforce immigration laws, and protect Arizona from "harms associated with rampant illegal immigration." Brewer locked horns with the federal government last April, when she signed the state's controversial measure cracking down on illegal immigrants into law.

It provoked protests in Arizona and around the country, although opinion polls showed that a majority of Americans supported the law. At the heart of the state law is the requirement that police determine the immigration status of a person they have detained and suspect of being in the country illegally.

But before it could take effect last July, U.S. District Court Judge Susan Bolton blocked key parts of the state law, arguing immigration matters are the federal government's responsibility.

In November, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit heard arguments in the case. It has yet to issue a ruling.

Brewer said the state would most likely have to pursue its claims all the way to the Supreme Court.

She added that legal costs were covered by donations from thousands of Americans, and that no state taxpayer funds had been spent in defending the law. □

U.S. officials eye ways to increase airport security

WASHINGTON — U.S. authorities are considering ways to tighten security in public areas at U.S. airports after a deadly attack in Moscow last month, John Pistole, the head of the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, said on

Thursday.

A suicide bomber last month killed 36 people and injured more than 100 after detonating the device in the international arrivals hall of Moscow's busy Domodedovo airport, sending airport officials scrambling to address the security gap.



Pistole told U.S. lawmakers he had submitted ideas to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on how to improve security in locations passengers go through before being screened for flights, a job usually handled by local police.

The ideas included checkpoints before vehicles are allowed to pull up to the airport terminals, small security teams patrolling the

grounds and using officers who are trained to detect unusual behavior, he told a House of Representatives' subcommittee on transportation security.

U.S. authorities have ramped up security for air travelers, luggage and cargo in the wake of several attempts by al Qaeda militants to attack the United States, adding full-body scanners and requiring more screening for cargo. □



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Medicare chief says health law working

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's chief of health programs for the elderly and poor on Thursday said the year-old U.S. healthcare overhaul was reducing Medicare costs and called a push by congressional Republicans to repeal the law unfortunate.

Medicare and Medicaid services administrator Donald Berwick, appearing before a congressional panel, rebuffed Republican claims that the law would raise costs for people enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA), which uses private insurance providers such as Humana Inc and UnitedHealth Group Inc, to deliver benefits.

Berwick told the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee that the latest data show premiums are down an average 6 percent this year, while enrollment is up by 6 percent to more than 12 million people.

Separately, Oppenheimer & Co analyst Michael Wiederhorn said he expects growth in private Medicare plans to continue to swell as more of the nation's baby boomer population qualifies for the program, which covers people age 65 or older.

Such plans "should be an attractive alternative to control costs compared to the inefficient Medicare Fee-For-Service," he wrote in a research note, adding that cuts to the plans under the health law could squeeze HMO profits.

Overall, shares of HMOS were up slightly compared to the larger S&P 500 index. Humana shares were down 0.7 percent at \$58.14 while UnitedHealth was up nearly 1 percent at \$42.46 in afternoon trade on the New York Stock Exchange.

As Berwick testified, Democrats released a report by the Government Accountability Office that said many Medicare Advantage programs spend a high percentage of premiums on administrative costs and profits.

"One out of every three MA enrollees is in a plan that spends less than 85 percent of their projected Medicare payment on medical expenses, which means more than 15 percent of their projected Medicare payment goes to overhead and profit," the report said. The healthcare overhaul places limits on how much insurers can spend on

profits and administrative costs.

At the Ways and Means hearing, Republicans pointed to prepared testimony by the Medicare and Medicaid agency's own chief actuary, Richard Foster. He predicted higher costs and lower enrollment in Medicare Advantage as changes in government payments under the new healthcare law go into effect.

Berwick said that Medicare Advantage providers have been aggressive in advertising and enrolling new beneficiaries.

"This law means real improvements for Medicare beneficiaries, now and in the future," Berwick said in his written testimony to the Ways and Means Committee.



"That's why the House vote to repeal this law was unfortunate."

It was Berwick's first appearance before the House panel and Republicans, who are pushing to repeal the law and deny funding for its implementation, pressed for

yes and no answers on its effect on Medicare. Berwick said the law was complicated and said it was difficult to be that specific.

"I am most disappointed in the lack of candid answers," said Republican Representative Geoff Davis. □

Chinese hackers infiltrated five energy firms: McAfee

WASHINGTON — Hackers working in China broke into the computer systems of five multinational oil and gas companies to steal bidding plans and other critical proprietary information, the computer security firm McAfee Inc said in a report.

The report, which named the attacks Night Dragon, declined to identify the five known companies that had been hacked and said that another seven or so had also been broken into but could not be identified.

"It speaks to quite a sad state of our critical infrastructure security. These were not sophisticated attacks yet they were very successful in achieving their goals," said Dmitri Alperovitch, McAfee's vice president for threat research.

The three largest U.S.-based oil companies, Exxon Mobil, Chevron and ConocoPhillips, all declined to comment on whether they had been targeted, citing policies not to speak about their security measures.

The attacks are the latest computer-based invasions directed at western companies, and come a year after Internet giant Google and more than 100 companies were targeted by hackers that were traced to China.

Stock market owner NASDAQ OMX reported over the weekend that hackers appeared to have breached its systems, and new legislation was introduced in the U.S. Senate that would strengthen cyber security. □

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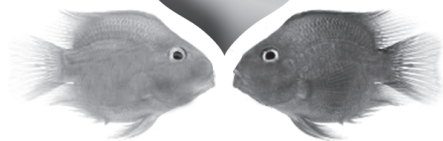
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Cisco shares plummet as bellwether becomes laggard

NEW YORK — After disappointing Wall Street quarter after quarter, Cisco Systems Inc has lost its status as a tech industry bellwether. Cisco shares fell 14.2 percent on Thursday to their lowest level since July 2009, as eroding margins stoked concerns that competition and dwindling public sector spending are stunting its growth.

Shares of long-time rivals such as Alcatel-Lucent and Juniper Networks Inc, by contrast, were doing just fine -- showing investors believe Cisco's problems are its own. It was the third time in as many quarters that the world's top maker of routers and switches stunned the market with a weak outlook.

Including the market's

cautious reaction to Cisco's solid report last May, it would be the fourth straight quarter of post-earnings decline in share price and marks a further divergence from the market's general recovery.

A fall in gross margin to 62.4 percent from the previous quarter's 64.3 percent and a 7 percent year-on-year decline in switching revenue was particularly worrying, and overshadowed stronger-than-expected results for the January quarter.

Cisco Chief Executive John Chambers said the shortfall was partly due to customers being in between buying newer switching products and that margins would rebound. Analysts were not entirely convinced.

"CEO Chambers cited pricing

pressure resulting from cannibalization by Cisco's own higher performance low-end switches, which we believe is actually a symptom of higher levels of competition," said Morgan Stanley analyst Ehud Gelblum.

Investors have long looked to Cisco as an early indicator of overall technology spending. The breadth of its customer base, which ranges from small U.S. businesses to foreign governments, affords Chambers a clear view of economic trends.

But Cisco's recently cautious outlook makes it look like the exception in an otherwise upbeat tech sector.

Even Alcatel-Lucent, a Franco-American rival that has been struggling since a 2006 merger, has been



showing signs of turning the business around. It offered an upbeat report on Thursday, sending its shares up 18.5 percent to their highest level since October 2009.

"Cisco was one of the only networking companies to report sequential revenue declines in what was a healthy IT spending environment," Piper Jaffray analyst Troy Jensen said in a report.

"The company is clearly losing share in two significant product categories, with switching sales down sequentially for three consecutive quarters and router sales declining 8.9 percent quarter-over-quarter." Cisco also faces new competition from such companies as China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and

Hewlett-Packard.

HP, which bought small network equipment maker 3Com, has been offering discounts to customers who trade in Cisco products. Cisco is retaliating by lowering prices and offering free financing or pay-later plans, analysts said.

"We believe Cisco is now being forced to price its newest, higher performance switches at prices equal to or lower than its older products, resulting in a hit to both revenue and gross margin," Gelblum said.

Chambers also warned that public-sector orders will continue to be weak in the United States, Europe and Japan, where governments are trying to control their debt. □

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Manchebo completes renovation



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The 71 fully-appointed deluxe ocean and garden view rooms are cool and comfortable with plush bedding, soft linens, sleek modern bathroom with waterfall shower and a host of thoughtful conveniences and amenities. □

AIR TRAFFIC



AAA up 3.2%, year total with 0.9%

ORANJESTAD - With the closing of 2010, International Air Transport Association (IATA) reports: "We are ending 2010 in much better shape than we were just a year ago. Airlines have turned losses into profit. Despite the economic uncertainties people continue to fly. Airlines appear to be managing capacity in the upturn with a good deal of prudence.

And cost control continues to be a main theme for airlines everywhere".

The picture going forward is anything but clear, but for the time being, the recovery seems to be strengthening. The industry remains very volatile.

Analyzing fourth quarter 2010, Revenue Generating Passenger RGP figures for commercial passengers and flights for AAA were up by +3.2 % and +10.2% compared to the fourth quarter 2009. The following graph illustrates the monthly performance 2010 compared to 2009 for commercial traffic.

Overall, all markets were up, with the exception of the Latin American & Caribbean market, which was negatively affected by the stricter credit card and currency regulations. In the last quarter of the year AAA N.V. welcomed the new airline Blue Panorama with a weekly flight from Milan to Aruba.

Developments in this quarter are also that Thomas Cook

Scandinavia resumed their flights to Aruba. Delta added extra weekly flight to LaGuardia for the winter season and Jazz Air started in November with weekly flights from Toronto.

Year end 2010, RGP figures for commercial passengers and aircraft movements were +0.9% and +5.5% respectively compared to 2009.

The following graph illustrates the year end figures for the different key markets.

The figures for 2010 for Europe were negatively affected by the decrease in cruise turn arounds. When excluding these, Europe passengers increased with 2.3% and aircraft movements with 0.6%.

"It is good to know, however, that the North American market is holding its own and growing compared to 2009. In terms of services, it was mainly the Venezuelan market that had a negative influence on the overall figures" said Peter Steinmetz, Chief Executive Officer AAA. "It's all about retention of service.

We cannot emphasize this enough. Our strategies to focus on air service retention; support our tourism partners in stimulation of demand and continue our diversification efforts during an extremely difficult and unpredictable year, have us looking back with some satisfaction and we are still pleased with our year end results". □

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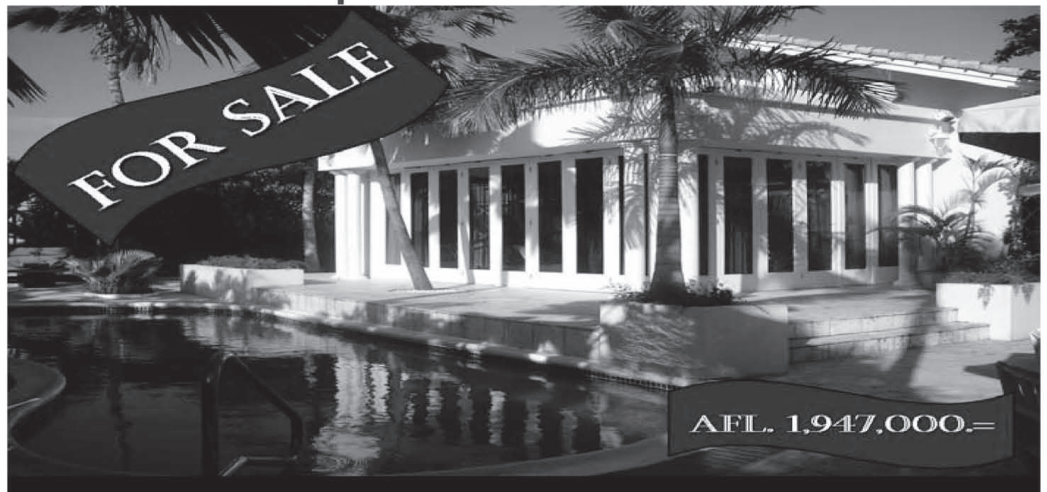
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Nicolas Fearon

"I like to entertain our guests and present the best tasting cocktails to them"

Nicolas is one of the well known bartenders at Ruth's Chris Steak House Aruba. Besides the excellent steaks, Ruth's Chris also serves excellent cocktails. "I like to prepare the Orange Mojito which is our signature drink" commented Nicolas. When visiting Ruth's Chris Steak House ask for Nicolas and you will be satisfied with his cocktail creations and the service provided.



Gloria Ramirez

"Our products are fresh and good quality"

Gloria Ramirez works as the supervisor of the AM shift of the Ruth's Chris Steak House. One of her first duties every day is to check all the requisitions, verify that the products are fresh and that the coolers and freezers are in working order. "The preparation starts already in the morning", comments Gloria. She invites everyone to come and order the special for two persons only on Friday February 11, 2011.

PALM BEACH – Ruth's Chris Steak House Aruba celebrates its 3rd anniversary on February 11th, 2011. The famous Steak House marked the official opening in 2008, offering fine-dining in Aruba and has been successful ever since with tourists and locals. Ruth's Chris is known for its exceptional steaks, selected from the top 2% of the country's beef and served sizzling hot -- broiled in 1800-degree ovens and served sizzling on 500 degree plates.

"Quality and consistency in both product and service are key operating at Ruth's Chris Steak House. Delivering just that together with the team to each and every guest day after day makes me proud of working for Ruth's Chris", commented Eduard Renaud general manager of Ruth's Chris Steak House.

To celebrate the 3rd anniversary of Ruth's Chris, the restaurant offers a promotion with an amazing price: dinner for two at Ruth's Chris Steak House plus 33,333.33 Marriott Reward points. To participate, have dinner at the famous steak house from Monday February 7th until February 11th and receive a ticket for the raffle. The winner will be announced by management on Friday February 11th. Besides this raffle Ruth's Chris Steak House Aruba is offering a special 3 course menu only on this day for \$109 for two persons.

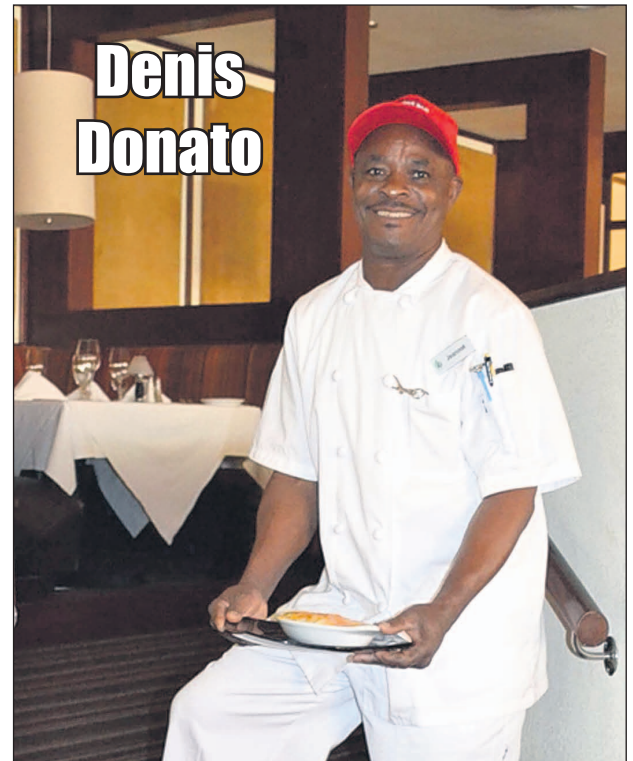
Ruth's Chris Steak House is situated on the ground level of the Aruba Marriott and is open seven days a week, from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. New Orleans-inspired appetizers, the finest U.S. Prime steaks, fresh seafood and classic desserts served with Caribbean charm and elegance. □



Jeannot Sterling

"At Ruth's Chris Steak House the food and the presentation is fantastic"

Jeannot work in the AM shift and is in charge of preparing the potatoes, the onion rings, shrimps and much more. Jeannot comments "I would like to invite everyone to come and experience Ruth's Chris Steak House and my personal recommendation as appetizer is the crabtini"



Denis Donato

"I am proud of working at Ruth's Chris Steak House"

The ambiance at work is the most important thing for Denis. Denis work as a cook in the AM shift and is in charge of making the dressings, fresh croutons, preparing the crème brulee, apple pie chocolate explosion apple pie and much more.

"I like the fact that we are consistently offering the best quality of food", Denis comments. Denis invites everyone to Ruth's Chris Steak House and experience the best steakhouse in Aruba



Marisol Nadal

"At Ruth's Chris Steak House you get more than just great dinner, you get a friendly atmosphere with excellent service"

Marisol is one of the first faces you encounter when you enter Ruth's Chris Steak House Aruba. Charming Marisol works as a hostess and always has a smile on her face.

"I enjoy making our guest feel special" commented Marisol. Ruth's Chris Steak House is the perfect place to visit for a special occasion and Marisol will be more than happy to assist you in making your evening an exceptional one.

Amazonia is gearing up for a very special Valentine's Day



will be available for \$50 a person, not including service charge and tax. While enjoying your dinner at Amazonia, make sure to try the recently introduced Pasta Formaggio, tossed by hand and flamed table-side. The velvety, smooth Formaggio is spectacularly scooped from the giant cheese wheel, having been doused in whiskey and set aflame, then served in irresistible piping-hot curls. Amazonia Churrascaria is open from Monday to Saturday, from 6 pm to 11 pm, and on Sundays from 4 pm to 11 pm. □

PALM BEACH — Amazonia Churrascaria is pulling out all the stops to celebrate Valentine's Day this year.

On Monday, February 14th, the famed Brazilian style steakhouse, located in the heart of Palm Beach, will welcome visitors with a romantic dinner special that is sure to get everyone in the mood. Amazonia's Valentine's Day Dinner will start off with a glass of champagne, which you will be able to enjoy while sampling from the gourmet 40-item seasonal salad bar, followed by a parade of 16 different cuts of beef, chicken, pork and lamb, grilled to perfection and carved table-side by the restaurant's roaming gauchos. Accompanying the delicious meats are Amazonia's signature side dishes.

To ensure a sweet ending, Amazonia will also serve a special Valentine's dessert.

The Valentine's Day Dinner





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Lovers seduced with an "Aphrodisiac Menu"



PALM BEACH - An aphrodisiac menu, that is what stunning Papillon Restaurant is offering its guests on February 14, Valentine's Day.

When Cupid's arrow has pierced your heart, something else is needed to keep you on (or, in this case, off) your feet and sustained.

That is where Papillon's excellent chef comes in: Chef Bas knows what he is doing: filled with a sumptuous dinner, you will leave the restaurant

with an urgent need to be alone with your loved one.

What does the Aphrodisiac Menu look like?

Well, it starts off with Champagne and fresh Strawberries, followed by an Oyster amuse, which will blow you away.

A Fig and Basil Salad, with fresh buffalo mozzarella and strips of prosciutto ham in a honey and saffron dressing precedes a Spicy Coconut Shrimp Soup.

As the love lights are starting to twinkle, a Chateaubriand

is carved at your table. The Chateaubriand is a center-cut Angus beef tenderloin, served with a roasted garlic sauce, tossed spinach, a mushroom and feta salad and lavender new potatoes.

The Aphrodisiacal experience comes to a finale with a chocolate raspberry ice sushi, made with a caviar of banana and pomegranate with a vanilla crème Anglaise.

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village complex across from the Radisson Resort at the Hi Rise strip. □

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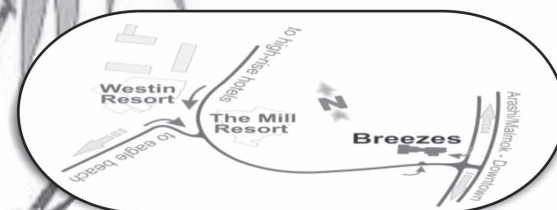
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Is social media the next big bubble?

WASHINGTON, DC — Social media websites are great if you want to read real-time updates from Washington political reporters who don't know how to drive in the snow, or would like to buy 50 dollars worth of Chinese food for 20 dollars. But is there really any money to be made in social media? Recent valuations of Twitter (\$8 billion to \$10 billion), LinkedIn (\$3 billion), Foursquare (\$250 million) and Groupon (\$15 billion) suggest that there is or at least that people think there is.

Perception, of course, was the reason people thought they'd get rich investing in an online pet shop during the dot-com bubble of the early 2000s. Those dreams didn't pan out, and Nasdaq was effectively crushed in the process. Is this new tech economy made of stronger stuff, or is irrational exuberance from investors paving the way for another Silicon Valley bubble?

The challenge facing social media companies today is the same one that plagued the dot-coms in 2000: where does your revenue come from? The inability to answer that question caused the first

bubble to burst, and Business Insider blog Hidden Levers says monolith Facebook is struggling with the same basic problem. Unless the company "decides to start selling profile data like they are big brother," it will remain at the mercy of ad revenue. The San Francisco Chronicle's Ryan Fuhrmann notes that while "most social media firms are still trying to figure out how to capitalize on their vast user bases," the process is only hindered by young management teams "wary of killing its cult status early in its development."

An emboldened Fed might actually be what prevents a social media bubble from emerging, writes Bloomberg's Chris Farrell. Because "inflation was tame and productivity strong during both the dot-com boom and the real estate bubble" the Fed "felt little pressure to make major shifts in monetary policy with inflation quiescent. Yet the toll when the bubbles burst was huge." It's the fear of another crippling economic downturn that will encourage "a far greater emphasis on regulatory initiative" and prompt the SEC to "step up its

Is Syria double-crossing citizens by allowing Facebook and YouTube?

WASHINGTON, DC — Syria has ended a five-year ban on Facebook and YouTube, a move that's either a pre-concession to unhappy citizens eyeing protests in Egypt or a new



convenient tool for spying on its people. The State Department cheered the news, but warned Syrians to "understand the risks" of provocative blogging and tweeting.

The New York Times' Jennifer Preston reports. One activist worried the Syrian government would use social networking sites to identify and squash protesters. In fact, Syrians might have been better off under the old system, as The Guardian's Ian Black explains. Now, they can't enter "proxy" in search engines, and webpages with "proxy" in the URL won't load. "Syrians, in short, have lost internet anonymity," Black writes. They can't secretly look at anti-regimes sites without exposing their identities extremely dangerous, as Syria hasn't lifted its censorship rules.

Syria may have looked to Sudan for inspiration. Wired's Spencer Ackerman notes that Sudanese President Omar al Bashir is trying to "beat [protesters] that their own game" by pushing for more rural electrification. That way, youngsters can "combat opposition" through social networking. So far, Facebook hasn't seen an uptick in traffic from Syria though YouTube has. Protest sites aren't nearly as safe as trampoline injury videos. □



scrutiny of private investors and company valuations in the growing trading market for private share offerings of such

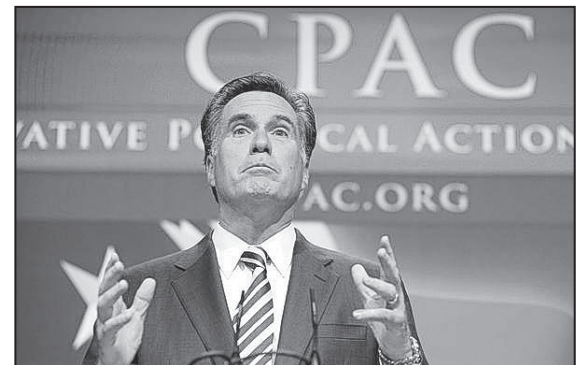
marquee high-tech companies as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn." His conclusion, then, seems to be that social

media might not be the way of the future, but at least investors will know it's not a shell game. □

The new CPAC: A bigger tent?

WASHINGTON, DC — Every year conservative activists, presidential hopefuls, and "Republican ladder-climbers" convene at CPAC to symbolically christen a front-running candidate (for what it's worth, in 2010 Ron Paul won). But the festivities this time around have been less "Miss America Show" and more, As New York magazine's Chris Rovzar put it, "uncharacteristically flamboyant."

For the last several months potential attendees have been sniping at each other about the inclusion of "combative" gay-group GOProud as a co-sponsor of the event. Social conservative organizations Family Research Council and Concerned Women For America are boycotting the event, as is Sen. Jim DeMint (Mike Huckabee and Sarah Palin are also not attending for "scheduling" reasons). But CPAC will go on and, quite possibly, benefit from the intra-party strife at least in terms of media attention. "The truth is that it's five boycotters and 10,000 people who are attending the conference, so we're celebrating the 10,000 people and not the five who are boycotting," GOProud Board Chairman Chris Barron told RealClearPolitics blogger Scott Conroy. "Most of the organizations speaking out weren't CPAC sponsors last year, so who the hell cares if they're boycotting, quite frankly?" An attention-grabber at CPAC will be conservative media mogul Andrew Breitbart's "big 'ol gay party," presented with the caveats that he still does not support gay marriage and will not take a stance on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell". Other prominent conservatives noted for supporting the



inclusion of GOProud as a co-sponsor include Mary Matalin, Grover Norquist and American Conservative Union president David Keene, notes CNN contributor John Avlon.

At The Atlantic, Nicole Russell hedges when appraising the new CPAC landscape. "If true conservatism lies in the equal standing of all three issues [national security, fiscal responsibility and social issues], GOProud's inclusion is just the most obvious sign that CPAC has veered from what it represented at its founding, critics say. Ronald Reagan spoke at the group's very first meeting in 1974, and would find it unrecognizable, they allege."

But these critics' ranks may be thinning: even Sarah Palin confirmed that she endorsed the GOProud's attendance at the event. "I don't have a problem with different, diverse groups that are involved in political discourse, and having a convention to talk about what the answers are to their problems that face America," she said on Fox News (via Daily Caller) "We better be concentrating on what is really important and not going tit-for-tat as people are positioning themselves for 2012 and figuring out what groups is going to support whom." □

Korea talks “collapse” in setback for nuclear dialogue

SEOUL – Military talks between the rival Koreas have collapsed, a unification ministry official in Seoul said on Wednesday, dealing a setback to efforts to restart international aid-for-disarmament talks.

Tensions have eased on the divided peninsula since the start of the year, with both sides calling for dialogue, raising hopes the neighbors could rebuild relations shattered over the past two years by a series of deadly attacks and failed nuclear talks.

Colonels from the two Koreas, still technically at war since their 1950-53 civil conflict ended in a truce, not a treaty, talked for two days but failed to get past the first hurdle of the preliminary meeting setting the agenda for senior discussions.

“The talks have collapsed; they haven’t even agreed on a date for their next meeting,” the official told Reuters, referring to the first meeting since the North’s attack on the southern island of Yeonpyeong in November, which killed four people and raised the threat of possible all-out war.

The South’s Defense Ministry said in a statement that the North’s representatives had “unilaterally walked out of the meeting room.”

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Colonel Dave Lapan called news of the walkout unfortunate and said the United States had actively encouraged dialogue between the two Koreas as a way to reduce tensions on the peninsula.

“We are hopeful they can work out whatever differences there were and resume talks as soon as possible,” Lapan said.

Seoul said the offer for senior-level military talks still stood, but on the condition the North “takes responsible steps regarding” last year’s attacks, a ministry official said.

The talks also became bogged down over the procedural issue of what rank any senior talks would take, with the South demanding either a ministerial or four-star general confab while North insisted on vice-ministerial dialogue.

While the failed talks underline the deep divisions and distrust between the rivals, analysts said they were hardly surprised and that any talks would follow a stop-start pattern.

“I thought it would take some time due to a gap in views of the both,” said Park Syung-je, an expert at the Asia Strategy Institute. “Next time ahead of talks, South Korea should check if North Korea truly wants them.”

Tensions rose on the divided peninsula last year when 46 South Korean sailors were killed in an attack on a naval vessel. North Korea, which denies responsibility for that attack, also revealed major advances in its nuclear programme in November.

Beijing and Washington had set inter-Korean dialogue as a prerequisite to restart six-party talks which offer the North aid and diplomatic recognition in return for disabling its nuclear arms program. Tokyo and Moscow are the other six-party members.

The North has said it wants to return to the broader negotiations, but Seoul and Washington have questioned its sincerity about denuclearizing pointing to its revelations about a uranium-enrichment programme.

“Without having the bilateral talks between the two Koreas, holding six-party talks also looks unclear now,” said Kim Seung-hwan of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The North quit the six-way talks in 2009, declaring the process dead, in protest against U.N. sanctions for conducting nuclear and missile tests. The North’s shelling of Yeonpyeong, the first attack against civilians on South Korean soil since the Korean War, set off a wave of war-like rhetoric that worried financial markets in a region home to one-sixth of the world’s economy. Under pressure from their main allies, the United States and China, the neighbors have stopped their combative language and reopened a hotline at their border.

And the two sides showed some signs of cooperation on Wednesday, with Seoul sending a telegram to Pyongyang saying it was ready to discuss humanitarian issues. □





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Tunisia says it seized armed group linked to ex-leader



TUNIS – Tunisian authorities said on Thursday they had detained an armed group, linked to ousted president Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, which they suspected of involvement in a wave of violence.

While security forces wrestled with persistent unrest, an official for the first time laid out a blueprint for how the country, subject to de facto one-party rule for most of its history, would hold democratic elections.

Weeks of protests forced Ben Ali last month to flee the country in a revolt which inspired uprisings in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world, but since then protests and rioting have raised questions about whether stability can be restored. Security officials in the coalition government put in place after Ben Ali fled to Saudi Arabia have said there is a conspiracy by officials close to the old administration to spread chaos and take back

power. Tunisian security forces assisted by the military arrested the group and seized weapons from them, the official TAP news agency said. “Their arrest was conducted following their involvement in last week’s painful and bloody events in the city of El Kef,” it said, referring to clashes in the northern town between police and protesters in which two people were killed.

The group is also “suspected of involvement in suspicious activity and smuggling and corruption operations in cooperation with relatives of the ex-president,” the agency said. Security had seemed to be slowly returning to Tunisia three weeks after Ben Ali and the closest members of his family fled the country. But in the past few days army reservists have been called up to help restore order after violence flared up again.

At least five people have been

killed in provincial towns since Friday, including the two shot dead in El Kef.

Many of the Tunisians who celebrated Ben Ali’s overthrow after 23 years of autocratic rule are now impatient for evidence that life will be better under the new system.

The head of a state commission for political reform said that he believed an election to choose a new president would happen by mid-July and it would be free and fair for the first time in Tunisia’s history.

“My personal view is that we need to have a presidential election within a maximum of six months (after Ben Ali’s overthrow),” Iyadh Ben Achour told Reuters in an interview.

“We have one objective and we will do everything in the service of that objective: the objective is to carry out real elections for the first

time in Tunisia.” “That is the fundamental objective. I will not retreat from that one inch. I will resign if ever that objective is forgotten,” he said. Tunisia’s interim government, a coalition of Ben Ali-era technocrats, opposition leaders and independents, said after a cabinet meeting that it was taking practical steps to recover “smuggled and plundered funds and assets” from members of the ex-president’s entourage.

The country’s economy has taken a battering over the past two months, with tourist visits a crucial source of revenue down and strike action affecting many sectors.

State-owned phone operator Tunisie Telecom said it was cancelling a plan for an initial public offering on the Paris and Tunis stocks exchanges after trade unions representing its workers threatened strike action. □

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Govt. calls for ‘urgent’ Egypt transition

LONDON – Foreign Secretary William Hague on Thursday called for an “urgent but orderly transition” in Egypt after President Hosni Mubarak refused to stand down during a speech to the nation.

“We’re studying very closely what the president and the vice president of Egypt have said,” Hague said in a Foreign Office statement.

“All we want in the UK is for them to be able to settle their own differences in a peaceful and democratic way.

“That’s why we’ve called for from the beginning of this crisis for an urgent but orderly transition to a more broadly-based government in Egypt.

“In the meantime we look to the Egyptian authorities to protect the right to peaceful protest.”

Mubarak was widely expected to relinquish control to vice president Omar Suleiman, but he angered protesters by saying



he would only hand over certain unspecified powers.

“It’s not immediately clear what powers are being handed over and what the full implications are,” the foreign secretary, in Bahrain as part of a three-day tour of Arab countries said.

Mubarak resisted international calls to quit, saying he “never bent to foreign diktats.”

Hague stressed that Britain did

not want to meddle in Egyptian affairs, saying “the solution to this has to be owned by the Egyptian people themselves.” Earlier Thursday, a spokesman for Prime Minister David Cameron kept up the pressure on Mubarak.

“There needs to be a broad-based government and a roadmap for change,” the spokesman said.

“It needs to happen urgently.” □

Mining giant Rio Tinto's profits almost triple

SYDNEY – Global mining giant Rio Tinto revealed that annual net profits almost tripled on the back of booming commodities prices and rapid growth in emerging markets. Earnings after tax rocketed to \$14.32 billion (10.50 billion euros) last year, compared with \$4.87 billion in 2009, the Anglo-Australian group said in a results statement. “This year’s record results reflect a combination of strong commodity markets, first class assets and excellent

operational performance at our managed operations,” said chairman Jan du Plessis. Rio enjoyed record underlying earnings in 2010 of \$14.0 billion and record operational cash flow, while net debt was slashed from \$18.9 billion to \$4.3 billion. Chief executive Tom Albanese said Rio had recovered from turmoil sparked by its pre-financial crisis purchase of Canada’s Alcan, which prompted a takeover bid from rival BHP Billiton and the

offer of a cash injection from Chinalco. “Rio Tinto is reinvigorated, running strongly and benefiting from favourable markets,” Albanese said. Surging commodity prices were the main driver of Rio’s stellar results, which were largely in line with expectations, boosting underlying earnings by \$9.5 billion.

Copper, iron ore, tin and gold are all close to all-time records, while silver and palladium are at multi-decade highs and aluminum, nickel, platinum and coal have risen to their highest levels since the global financial crisis. The mining giant was so confident of its prospects it announced a \$5.0 billion share buyback to return “excess capital to shareholders” and said its main focus was growth. It also announced a final dividend of 63 US cents. But investors took the opportunity to cash in their gains, sending Rio’s share price down 1.71 percent to 4,579.50 pence in late morning deals on London’s



FTSE 100 index, which was down 0.78 percent in value. There was “robust” demand for power-generating coal from South Korea, India, Taiwan and China, while iron ore and coking coal benefited from improved conditions across all markets, Rio said. Citing “GDP growth in emerging markets and supply constraints,” Albanese said the general market and pricing outlook for commodities remained positive, though withdrawal of stimulus following the downturn continued to pose risks. “(This has) the potential to generate both volatility and substantial swings in

commodity prices,” said Albanese.

“We are well placed to cope with the risks of both short term volatility and long term demand growth.”

Du Plessis added that Rio’s Australian iron ore ramp-up continued, with the company targeting 283 million tonnes per year by 2013 and 333 million by 2015 from 220 million currently.

There had been \$12 billion in capital works approved across its tier one projects since the start of 2010.

“We are in a significant growth phase and have multiple opportunities to pursue,” he said. □

India and Pakistan say peace talks to resume

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD – India and Pakistan said they would resume formal peace talks but issues such as militancy and the disputed Kashmir region are likely to slow any progress toward defusing tensions.

The talks, expected to start by July, would be the first since New Delhi broke off peace negotiations after militant attacks on Mumbai in 2008. The nuclear-armed neighbors have been under pressure from the United States to resolve a rivalry that spills over into Afghanistan, complicating peace efforts there.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani welcomed “the important decision taken both by Pakistan and India to resume (a) full spectrum of dialogue”.

In a statement, Gilani said the talks were the result of his negotiations with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

If talks do resume there is probably little chance of rapid progress between the two countries, which have fought each other three times since their independence more than 60 years ago.

Previous formal talks, which started in 2004, quickly floundered amid a minefield of political obstacles and distrust.

“I am cautiously optimistic about the talks. Cautious because there are so many variables and unknowns involved,” said Amitabh Mattoo, professor of International Relations at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

A senior Indian government official said the decision to return to talks was made at a meeting between the two countries’ top diplomats in Bhutan’s capital, Thimphu, on the sidelines of a regional conference. The two governments will hold a series of talks on counter-terrorism and Kashmir ahead of a visit to India by Pakistan’s foreign minister by July, the countries’ foreign ministries said.

New Delhi suspended the peace process between the two sides after the commando-style militant attacks in India’s commercial capital Mumbai, blaming Pakistan-based militants for the deaths of 166 people. Since then officials from the two nations have met to improve ties but have shied away from resuming the so-called composite dialogue that included resolving key differences, including a dispute over the Himalayan territory of Kashmir.

“I think the Indians have realized that their policy (of not having formal talks) was not paying any dividends,” said former Pakistani army general and analyst Talat Masood.

“I think there is also some sort of foreign pressure, the American pressure that it’s much better in the interest of Afghanistan that they improve their relationship.”

Financial markets tend not to react to such diplomatic twists and turns, but a second attack like Mumbai could trigger a retaliation by India, a move that would almost certainly hit investor confidence in Asia’s third-largest economy.

India’s prime minister Singh has made efforts to entice Pakistan to peace talks, concerned about the legacy of his second term government. But such moves have little impact on voters at home who are more concerned about inflation and corruption, and India these days looks more toward competing with China on economic and security issues than its traditional rival Pakistan. □



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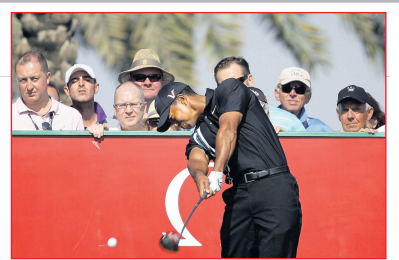
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McIlroy leads, Woods 6 back in Dubai

Tiger Woods tees off on the 9th hole during the first round of Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament at the Emirates Golf Club in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday Feb. 10, 2011.

Page B5



SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News E-mail:news@arubatoday.com Website:www.arubatoday.com Tel:582-7800 Friday, February 11, 2011

0-AND-26



A Cleveland Cavaliers fan holds up a sign in the third quarter in an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011, in Cleveland. Cleveland's losing streak reached 26, matching the 1976-77 Tampa Bay Buccaneers' record for consecutive incompetence on Wednesday night with a 103-94 loss to the Detroit Pistons.

Associated Press
Page B4

AL MVP

Hamilton, Rangers reach \$24M, 2-yr. deal

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer
ARLINGTON, Texas – AL MVP Josh Hamilton and the Texas Rangers agreed Thursday to a \$24 million, two-year contract that avoids an arbitration hearing next week. The deal was reached four days before a scheduled hearing in Phoenix.

Continued on Page 3

TUNED OUT



This Jan. 17, 2010, file photo shows Utah Jazz head coach Jerry Sloan, front, and assistant coach Phil Johnson waving before facing the Denver Nuggets in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, in Denver. A person with knowledge of the situation says Sloan is stepping down as head coach of the Jazz. The person also told The Associated Press on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011, that longtime assistant Phil Johnson also will resign..

Associated Press
Page B3

NFL, players' union cancel 2nd day of talks

WASHINGTON – Negotiations to prevent an NFL lockout took a grim turn Thursday with the cancellation of the second day of a planned two-day bargaining session.

"We wish we were negotiating today," NFL Players Association spokesman George Atallah said. "That's all I can say."

There are just three weeks to go before the collective bargaining agreement expires on March 3.

The NFL confirmed that Commissioner Roger Goodell has canceled an owners' meeting scheduled for next Tuesday in Philadelphia,

where labor was expected to be a topic.

"Despite the inaccurate characterizations of (Wednesday's) meeting, out of respect to the collective bargaining process and our negotiating partner, we are going to continue to conduct negotiations with the union in private," league spokesman Greg Aiello told The Associated Press via e-mail, "and not engage in a point-counterpoint on the specifics of either side's proposals or the meeting process. Instead, we will work as hard as possible to reach a fair agreement by March 4. We are fully focused on that goal." □



Prosecutors trim Barry Bonds steroid indictment



In this Jan. 21, 2011, file photo, Barry Bonds walks out of a federal courthouse in San Francisco.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — U.S. federal prosecutors have cut the number of felony charges against former baseball great Barry Bonds from 11 to five.

Major League Baseball's home run leader still faces the same punishment he always has, but the paring of the charges reflected the troubles prosecutors have encountered since indicting him for the first time in 2007 for allegedly lying to a grand jury about his steroids use. Bonds has pleaded not guilty.

The indictment unsealed Thursday was the third version of the charges against Bonds. The document reflects the hit the government's case took when the slugger's personal trainer made clear

his willingness to go to jail on contempt of court charges instead of testifying against his former client.

The trainer, Greg Anderson, has already served more than a year in prison for refusing to testify before the grand jury investigating Bonds. Anderson, who prosecutors allege supplied Bonds with steroids, is scheduled to appear in court before Bonds' March 21 trial to formally tell the judge of his plans for the trial. Anderson's attorney, Mark Geragos, said Anderson will reiterate his refusal to take the witness stand. It's likely that Anderson will be jailed for the duration of the trial, which is expected to last up to a month.

Prosecutors on Thursday removed from the indictment perjury charges that relied on dates found on so-called doping calendars found in Anderson's apartment that prosecutors allege show Bonds' drug regimen. U.S. District Judge Susan Illston ruled those documents inadmissible at trial because of Anderson's refusal to authenticate them on the witness stand.

In the new indictment, they reduced from nine to three the number of charges alleging Bonds lied under oath when he testified that he never knowingly took performance enhancing drugs. □



Russia's Maria Sharapova returns a ball to France's Virginie Razzano during a Fed Cup tennis match in Moscow, Russia, Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011.

Associated Press

Dokic tops Petrova, reaches Gaz de France quarterfinals

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Australian qualifier Jelena Dokic upset fifth-seeded Nadia Petrova of Russia 6-4, 7-6 (4) in the second round of the Open Gaz de France on Thursday, setting up a quarterfinal against Australian Open champion Kim Clijsters.

Dokic sealed the win when she pegged Petrova back with a powerful return, and the Russian hit a forehand into the net. Petrova couldn't break Dokic in their first match in more than 10 years.

Dokic, a former world No. 4 fallen to 120, will appear in her first quarterfinals since her amazing run to the Australian Open quarterfinals two years ago as a wild card. But she was under no illusions about facing four-time Grand Slam champion Clijsters for the first time in eight years, and the 10th time overall. Clijsters leads 6-3, but Dokic won their last match in 2003.

Their careers have gone in opposite directions since the days when Dokic was one of the best juniors in the world. Still, Dokic was excited about the challenge facing her.

"It's the toughest match you can play, it's a great test," Dokic said. "I think she really is the No. 1 player in the world. She's won (the) U.S. Open and Australian Open, a Masters as well. I'm really looking forward to the match as I have nothing to lose."

The 27-year-olds go back a long way, all the way back to 1998 when they won the French Open junior doubles title.

"We played juniors together so much, we won Roland Garros juniors in doubles, so we know each other great," Dokic said. "I think we play a little bit similar, we play pretty aggressive."

In other second-round matches, fourth-seeded Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic needed five match points to

beat countrywoman Barbora Zahlavova Strycova 6-4, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (9).

Kvitova converted only four of her 19 break-point chances in a match lasting 3 hours, 15 minutes.

"I feel really tired now. It was a very long match," Kvitova said. "Five match points in the tiebreak ... each ball was very close. I made a mistake (with) the backhand cross (court) two or three times."

She next plays No. 7 Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium in the quarterfinals.

Wickmayer needed less than an hour to beat Klara Zakopalova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-3.

Earlier, Maria Sharapova withdrew before her second-round match against Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the United States because she said she was still feeling the effects of a viral illness.

Mattek-Sands then beat France's Stephanie Cohen-Aloro 7-5, 6-3. □

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"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

AP Source: Sloan stepping down as Jazz coach

LYNN DeBRUIN

AP Sports Writer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A person with knowledge of the situation says Jerry Sloan is stepping down as head coach of the Utah Jazz.

The person told The Associated Press on Thursday that longtime assistant Phil Johnson also will resign. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the resignations have not yet been formally announced.

The team scheduled a news conference late Thursday for what it called a significant announcement.

The 68-year-old Sloan is the longest-tenured head coach in the NBA, leading the Jazz since 1988. He was under contract

for one more season.

The moves follow an emotional 91-86 loss to the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday, Utah's 10th in the last 14 games. Sloan hinted something was in the works after delaying his postgame press conference for more than 30 minutes because of what he said was a meeting with Jazz general manager Kevin O'Connor. He said more would be forthcoming on Thursday. Sloan began working for the Jazz as a scout in 1983, became assistant to coach Frank Layden on Nov. 19, 1984, and was named the sixth coach in team history on Dec. 9, 1988, when Layden resigned.

He is the only coach in NBA history to win 1,000

games with one team, a feat he accomplished on Nov. 7 against Oklahoma City. Sloan's other wins came with the Chicago Bulls from 1979 to 1982. While he has headed the Jazz, there have been 245 coaching changes around the league — 13 alone by the Los Angeles Clippers, and five current NBA teams (Charlotte, Memphis, Toronto, Orlando and Minnesota) did not even exist when Sloan took the helm in Utah. He ranks third all-time in NBA wins behind Don Nelson (1,335) and Lenny Wilkens (1,332).

Sloan also is one of only three coaches in NBA history with 15-plus consecutive seasons with a winning record (Pat



This Jan. 17, 2010, file photo shows Utah Jazz head coach Jerry Sloan, front, and assistant coach Phil Johnson waving before facing the Denver Nuggets in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, in Denver. A person with knowledge of the situation says Sloan is stepping down as head coach of the Jazz. The person also told The Associated Press on Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011, that longtime assistant Phil Johnson also will resign.

Associated Press

ALMVP

Continued from Page B1

He gets a \$3 million signing bonus, a \$7.25 million salary this year and \$13.75 million in 2012.

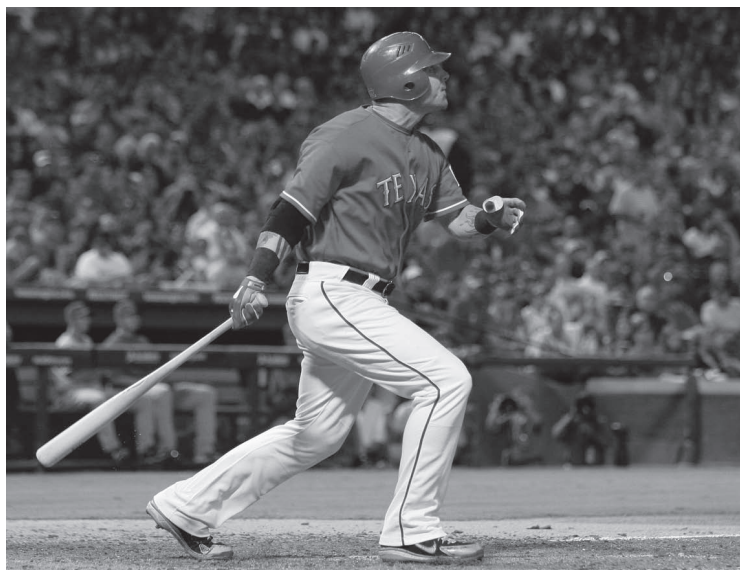
Hamilton said earlier this week that the AL champions had approached his agent about the possibility of a deal to cover his last two arbitration-eligible seasons. Hamilton can become a free agent after the 2012 World Series.

He hit a major league-leading .359 last season with 32 homers and 100 RBIs despite missing most of the final month of the regular season with broken ribs. The outfielder returned for the end of regular season and the playoffs.

Hamilton and the Rangers were scheduled to discuss the deal in a news conference later Thursday.

Hamilton made \$3.25 million last season, when the Rangers went to the World Series for the first time in franchise history. When the sides exchange proposed arbitration salaries last month, Hamilton had asked for \$12 million, \$3.3 million more than Texas had offered. It has been 11 years since the Rangers went to an arbitration hearing with a player.

The three-time All-Star has a .311 career average with 93 homers and 331 RBIs in 468 major league games, an incredible comeback for the former No. 1 overall draft pick whose career was derailed by his well-documented cocaine and alcohol addictions after he got hurt in the minors. □



This Oct. 2, 2010, file photo shows Texas Rangers' Josh Hamilton watching his two-run home run against the Los Angeles Dodgers, in the fifth inning of a baseball game in Arlington, Texas. Hamilton and the Rangers agreed Thursday, Feb. 10, 2011 to a two-year contract that avoids an arbitration hearing next week.

Associated Press

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late show: 11:45

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Riley and Phil Jackson, both with 19, are the others). As a player with the Bulls, Sloan averaged 14.0 points, 7.5 rebounds and 2.5 assists in 755 games played over 11 NBA seasons until a knee injury prematurely ended his career in 1976. Nicknamed "The

Original Bull" because he was selected in the 1966 Expansion Draft, Sloan was a two-time NBA All-Star (1967, 1969) known for his toughness and grit. He was the only player in NBA history to average 7-plus rebounds and 2-plus steals per game for his career. □

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Jazz stung by Bulls



Chicago Bulls' Carlos Boozer, right, is cut off by Utah Jazz's Paul Millsap during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Salt Lake City, Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011. It was Boozers first game back in Utah since he signed with the Bulls last year. Associated Press

NBA Roundup

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Chicago's Derrick Rose scored 29 points and former Jazz players Kyle Korver and Ronnie Brewer made key plays late to lift the Bulls to a 91-86 win over Utah in the NBA on Wednesday. Another former Jazz favorite, Carlos Boozer, made his return to Utah in a Bulls uniform and finished with 14 points and six rebounds. Korver sank a 3-pointer with 2:17 remaining to give the Bulls an 87-83 lead. The Jazz cut it to 87-86 on free throws by Al Jefferson and Andrei Kirilenko, but Rose sank two more free throws to put Chicago ahead by three again with 13 seconds left. Brewer, drafted by the Jazz in 2006, then stole the ball from Deron Williams and sank two free throws for the final margin. Jefferson led the Jazz with 28 points. **Spurs 111, Raptors 100** In Toronto, San Antonio's DeJuan Blair matched a career high by scoring 14 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, helping the NBA-leading San Antonio beat Toronto. Blair, who also had 11 rebounds, matched the 28 points he scored against Oklahoma City last season. Antonio George Hill had 18 points as San Antonio made it 15 wins from 17 games. Andrea Bargnani scored

29 points for the Raptors, who have lost 15 of 16. **Magic 99, 76ers 95** In Philadelphia, Orlando extended its dominance over Philadelphia. Dwight Howard had 30 points and 17 rebounds, J.J. Redick came off the bench to score 13 points as the Magic made it 14 wins from its past 16 meetings with the Sixers. Lou Williams got 18 of his 23 in the fourth quarter, nearly rallying the Sixers to a comeback win himself. The Magic is tied with Atlanta for fourth place in the East, 5½ games behind conference-leading Boston. **Warriors 116, Nuggets 114** In Oakland, Monta Ellis scored 37 points to lead Golden State over undermanned Denver. Dorell Wright had 23 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists for the Warriors. Carmelo Anthony finished with 29 points for a Nuggets team playing without injured point guard Chauncey Billups.

In other NBA games it was Detroit 103, Cleveland 94; Indiana 104, Charlotte 103; New Jersey 103, New Orleans 101, OT; Orlando 99, Philadelphia 95; San Antonio 111, Toronto 100; Washington 100, Milwaukee 85; L.A. Clippers 116, New York 108; Chicago 91, Utah 86; Dallas 102, Sacramento 100; and Golden State 116, Denver 114. □

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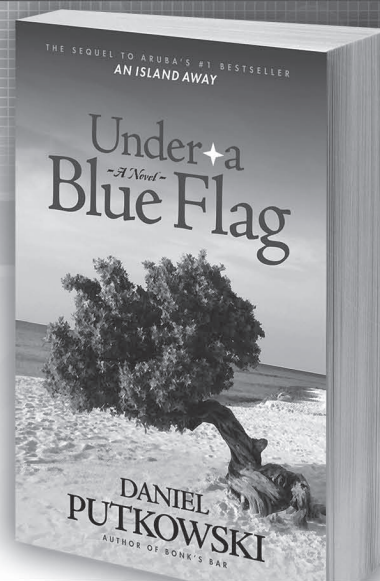
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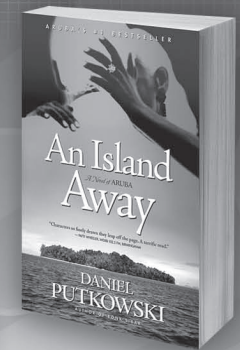
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Rory McIlroy takes lead at Dubai Desert Classic

MICHAEL CASEY

AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Rory McIlroy shot a 7-under 65 Thursday to take the lead after the first round of the Dubai Desert Classic, four shots better than Lee Westwood and Martin Kaymer and six ahead of Tiger Woods.

McIlroy, whose only European Tour win came in Dubai two years ago, had eight birdies to go with one bogey at the Emirates Golf Club.

Woods (71) struggled early in the day, twice going to 2 over. But he eagled the 18th hole after hitting a 3-wood about 250 yards that landed about eight feet from the hole.

"It was one of those days where I fought hard," Woods said. "Unfortunately, I got to 2-over par on two different occasions. I was 2 over early, I got it back, birdieing 10, 11, threw it right away again with a double on 12 and got it back to under for the day. All in all, I think a positive result."

Much of the buzz coming into the opening round centered on the grouping that included the world's top three golfers. But only the top-ranked Westwood (69) threatened by reaching 4-under before dropping a shot on the final hole to fall into a tie with Kaymer at 3 under.

"I played well. I played solidly. I didn't make too many mistakes," Westwood

said. "It was disappointing to shoot 1 over for the last two holes. One under would have been nice."

The seventh-ranked McIlroy, who was runner-up in last month's Abu Dhabi Championship, took the early lead and held it. He is two shots ahead of Sergio Garcia and Thomas Aiken (both 67). Five others trail by another shot, including Danny Willett, Steve Webster and Jean-Baptiste Gonnet.

"Today was good," the 21-year-old McIlroy said. "I really had a lot of iron shots and got away with a couple of drives that I was quite fortunate to make birdies from. I had a putt for a 64 on the last that didn't quite go in but I'll take 65 in these conditions any day."

The Northern Irishman came into the tournament saying he felt he should be winning more tournaments. Along with his win in Dubai, he won the Quail Hollow Championship in 2009. He said he was benefiting from the work he has done on his swing in

the offseason and this week from the fact that much of the attention this week has been on the top three.

"With the big three being paired together, I tried to go in a little under the radar and a bit more quietly," McIlroy said. "It was nice to get a good round in there early."

Much like McIlroy, Garcia has been overhauling his game and trying to get back the form that saw him ranked as high as No. 2 nearly two years ago. Since then, the Spaniard has been in the news more for missing cuts than winning tournaments — though his game has improved this year with a top-10 finish in Qatar last weekend. He is currently ranked 79th.

"You know, it's slowly getting there," Garcia said. "Still needs to improve, and there will be some not nice rounds coming. This is just the beginning."

Defending champion Miguel Angel Jimenez (72) was in the mix until the final four holes, when he had two double-bogeys. □



Rory McIlroy from Northern Ireland plays a shot on 10th hole during the first round of Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament at the Emirates Golf Club in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday Feb. 10, 2011.

Associated Press

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Vonn improves, but racing status still uncertain



ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer
G A R M I S C H -
P A R T E N K I R C H E N,
Germany (AP) — Lindsey
Vonn's condition has
improved following a relapse

of her head injury symptoms,
but while the American is
planning to enter Friday's
super-combined race at the
world championships, she still
isn't sure if she'll complete it.
After skipping the opening

downhill training session
Wednesday, Vonn completed
a full run of training Thursday
wearing a puffy white hooded-
jacket and blue snow pants to
slow her down, while getting
just enough speed to see if she

still has any symptoms.
"I feel better today," Vonn said.
"I took yesterday completely
off. I did basically nothing. I
sat in a dark room and didn't
have any stimulation, which
is what the doctors told me
to do, and today I feel much
better."

Vonn landed on her head
in giant slalom training in
Austria last week and sat out
a race in Zwiesel.

She returned for Sunday's
giant slalom and then reported
that it felt like she was "skiing
in a fog" in Tuesday's super-G
that opened the worlds,
finishing an uncharacteristic
seventh. U.S. women's team
head physician William
Sterett has been putting Vonn
through a series of concussion
protocol tests, all of which she
has passed.

"I woke up with no headache
and I went up and I passed all
the tests," Vonn said. "I did a
test before I did inspection,
and another test before I did
the run and I passed both of
those, so I decided to do the
training run with my clothes
— obviously to slow things
down for me — but basically

just to see if I could compete
or do the training run and hold
the concentration from the
very top to the very bottom.
And I felt good. I felt like it
was a very good step in the
right direction."

Vonn is planning to wear her
normal racing suit in the super-
combined. Still, she says she
will treat the downhill portion
of the race as a training run,
and will stop if she feels
problems at any point.

If the downhill portion goes
well, then she might enter the
afternoon slalom leg, but that
appears unlikely.

"The second I have a headache
or focus problems, I'm going
to stop," Vonn said.

"I want to be really careful
from here on out. It's a pretty
bad sign that I had symptoms
again after the super-G, which
means that I'm not recovered
yet, so I'm not going to
take any chances. This is a
dangerous downhill and if I
don't feel like I can focus then
I'm not going to do it."

Vonn won this season's
only super-combined race
in Val d'Isere, France, in
December. □

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Ducks inflict rare defeat on Canucks

NHL Roundup

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — The regulation-time defeat on the Anaheim Ducks beat Canucks in 30 NHL games. Vancouver 4-3 on Wednesday Bobby Ryan scored twice



In this Jan. 5, 2011, file photo, Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) plays against the Tampa Bay Lightning in the first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh.

Pens' Sidney Crosby wants to play again

PITTSBURGH — Penguins captain Sidney Crosby says he expects to play this season after suffering a concussion, but there are no guarantees he'll be able to make a comeback.

Crosby visited the Penguins during Thursday's morning skate for the first time since leaving the team last week to visit his parents outside of Halifax, N.S.

"I hope I'm back and I hope I play this year," Crosby said. "That's the thing with (concussions), you don't know."

Like any player returning from a serious head injury, Crosby is frustrated by the slow pace of recovery.

"It's out of my control," he said. "You just hope with time, the quicker the better."

Crosby has missed 14 games for the Penguins with complications due to a concussion. He will not be allowed to return to the ice until he is symptom-free. He still leads the team with 32 goals and 66 points, and is fourth in the league in scoring.

Crosby, 23, said he left to get away, relax and not deal with the stresses that come with talking about his injury. He said it's impossible to know when he'll be able to play again, and that he's just focusing on getting better.

Crosby was sidelined after taking hits to the head in successive games Jan. 1 against Washington in the Winter Classic and Jan. 5 against Tampa Bay. And he's not alone on the injury front.

Center Evgeni Malkin, scheduled for season-ending knee surgery on Thursday, won't be back until September. Center Mark Letestu is out 4-6 weeks with a knee injury that also required surgery. And the Penguins will also play the next four games without left wing Matt Cooke, serving a suspension brought down by the NHL on Wednesday.

To fill the lineup, the Penguins recalled four players from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton of the American Hockey League, forwards Ryan Craig, Nick Johnson, Brett Sterling and Joe Vitale.

The Penguins play host to the Los Angeles Kings on Thursday, before a two-game swing through New York, facing the Islanders on Friday, and the Rangers on Sunday. □



Vancouver Canucks' Dan Hamhuis, right, lays on the ice behind goalie Cory Schneider after being hit by Anaheim Ducks' Ryan Getzlaf, not pictured, during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Vancouver, B.C., on Wednesday Feb. 9, 2011. Hamhuis was tended to on the ice by a doctor and left the game.

Associated Press

and Curtis McElhinney made 34 saves for Anaheim. Jason Blake opened the scoring 56 seconds in, Brandon McMillan doubled the lead 3:26 into the second period, and Ryan scored his first goal 46 seconds later.

Daniel Sedin, Alex Burrows, with his 100th NHL goal, and Ryan Kesler, scored for the Canucks.

Predators 4, Red Wings 1

In Detroit, Nashville won to close within five points of Detroit for leadership of the Central Division.

Martin Erat, David Legwand, Colin Wilson and Sergei Kostitsyn all scored by midway through the second period to give Nashville an unassailable lead and force the removal of Detroit goaltender Jimmy Howard.

Pekka Rinne made 34 saves for the Predators, allowing only Ruslan Salei's goal late in the second; the Belarussian's first goal this season.

Bruins 8, Canadiens 6

In Boston, the hosts outslugged and outlasted Montreal to go clear top of the Northeast Division.

Bruins goalie Tim Thomas allowed a season-worst six

goals, but made up for an off-night in the net by squaring off with Montreal counterpart Carey Price during a second-period fight that left the penalty boxes overflowing and the ice littered with equipment.

Milan Lucic and Michael Ryder had two goals each for Boston while Nathan Horton, Brad Marchand, Dennis Seidenberg and Adam McQuaid also scored.

Max Pacioretty scored two of Montreal's four power play goals, Brian Gionta scored his 200th NHL goal and P.K. Subban, Yannick Weber and David Desharnais also netted for the Canadiens.

Coyotes 3, Stars 2, OT

In Dallas, Radim Vrbata scored a power-play goal early in overtime to lift Phoenix over Dallas and extend the Stars' losing streak to a season-worst four games.

Michal Rozsival had a power-play goal and Mikkel Boedker scored the tying goal in the third period for the Coyotes. Brad Richards notched his 22nd goal of the season and Steve Ott also scored for the Stars.

Sharks 3, Blue Jackets 2

In Columbus, Patrick Marleau

scored from a sharp angle with 4:51 left to lift San Jose over Columbus.

Kent Huskins and Kyle Wellwood also scored for the Sharks, who have earned at least a point in 10 games straight.

The Blue Jackets looked in control when they led 2-0 through goals from Kristian Huselius and Grant Clitsome, and were pressing for a third goal, outshooting the Sharks 16-9 in the third period before conceding Marleau's winner.

In other NHL games it was Boston 8, Montreal 6; San Jose 3, Columbus 2; Nashville 4, Detroit 1; Minnesota 3, Colorado 2; Phoenix 3, Dallas 2, OT; Calgary 5, Ottawa 2; Chicago 4, Edmonton 1; Anaheim 4, Vancouver 3. □



Average rate on 30-year mortgage hits 5.05 pct.



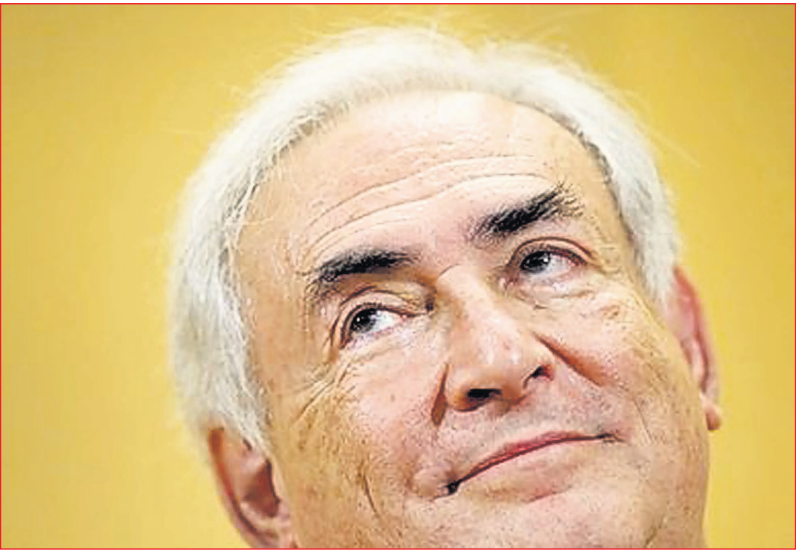
NEW YORK — The average rate on the 30-year mortgage topped 5 percent this week for the first time since April. Higher rates could further hamper the struggling housing market ahead of the spring’s prime home-buying season. Freddie Mac said Thursday that the average rate rose to 5.05 percent from 4.81 percent last week. It hit a 40-year low of 4.17 percent in November. The average rate on the 15-year home loan, a popular refinance option, increased to 4.29 percent from 4.08 percent. It reached 3.57 percent in November, the lowest level on records starting in 1991. Rates are following the yields on the 10-year Treasury note, which are spiking on fears of higher inflation. Investors have been demanding higher Treasury yields since the Federal Reserve began its \$600 billion bond-buying program to boost the economy. Record high foreclosures, job

concerns and expectations that home prices will fall further have sidelined many potential homebuyers. Rising mortgage rates could deter more people from buying, although rates are still extremely low by historical standards.”It doesn’t help. Any increase in mortgage rates takes away buying power and dilutes the incentive to refinance,” said Greg McBride, a senior financial analyst with Bankrate.com. The payment difference between today’s rate and the historically low rate in November on a \$200,000 loan is less than \$100 a month, not enough to price a buyer out of a market, McBride said. There also are plenty of buyers who are paying cash. Still, if rates continue to spike, that will chill any recovery in housing, said Patrick Newport, U.S. economist at IHS Global Insight. “Six percent would do serious damage if it happened in a

very short period of time,” Newport said. In the last three months of last year, more people turned out to buy previously occupied homes in 49 states, according to a report Wednesday from the National Association of Realtors. Prices also improved in more than half of the metropolitan areas the group surveys. That offered hope for a nascent recovery, even after 2010 was the worst year for sales in 13 years. To calculate average mortgage rates, Freddie Mac collects rates from lenders across the country on Monday through Wednesday of each week. Rates often fluctuate significantly, even within a single day. The average rate on a five-year adjustable-rate mortgage rose to 3.92 percent from 3.69 percent. The five-year hit 3.25 percent last month, the lowest rate on records dating back to January 2005. The average rate on one-year adjustable-rate home loans increased to 3.35 percent from 3.26 percent. The rates do not include add-on fees, known as points. One point is equal to 1 percent of the total loan amount. The average fee for the 30-year and 15-year loan in Freddie Mac’s survey was 0.7 point. The average fee for the five-year and 1-year ARM was 0.6 point.□



IMF chief urges global monetary reform



WASHINGTON — International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn on Thursday urged reform of the international monetary system, saying an expanded role for the IMF’s special currency could promote stability. Strauss-Kahn noted the only way the world survived the 2008 financial crisis was through extraordinary international policy cooperation. “Global imbalances are back, with issues that worried us before the crisis — large and volatile capital flows, exchange rate pressures, rapidly growing excess reserves on the front burner once again,” the managing director said at an IMF panel discussion on international monetary reform.

Strauss-Kahn warned that if the problems were left unresolved, they “could even sow the seeds of the next crisis.” Such reform would help address the root of those global imbalances and bolster the system’s ability to prevent future crises. “When we worry about the deficiencies of the international monetary system, we are mostly worrying about volatility: a sense that money sometimes flows around the globe in too volatile a fashion, and that countries need a more stable, more predictable external environment in order to prosper.” Strauss-Kahn recalled that the IMF has been working to limit that volatility through several approaches: by strengthening coordination of economic and monetary policy, stepping up surveillance of capital flows and improving its financial safety net for member nations in need. Under a mandate from the Group of 20 developed and emerging economies, representing about 90 percent of global output, the IMF has launched a mutual assessment process that takes into account the global effect of country-level policies. France, which holds the rotating G20 presidency this year, has put currency reform at the top of its agenda. As part of a proposed reform toolkit, Strauss-Kahn suggested the fund’s international reserve asset, known as the Special Drawing Rights (SDR), could be used to smooth volatility. “Over time, there may also be a role for the SDR to contribute to a more stable international monetary system,” he said. A key move would be expanding the SDR basket, which currently includes four major currencies: the dollar, euro, yen and pound.□

China’s lunar holiday retail sales surge

SHANGHAI — China’s retail sales for the Lunar New Year holiday surged 19 percent year-on-year in one of the biggest rises in a decade, signalling a surge in domestic consumption, according to state media. Shops and restaurants across the country rang up 404.5 billion yuan (\$61.3 billion) in sales, up nearly a fifth from the Chinese New Year period in 2010, the commerce ministry said in a statement.

“Despite the high inflation rate in 2010, the increase is still remarkable,” Lu Zheng-wei, chief economist at the Industrial Bank was quoted as telling the China Daily. “It underscores the initial success of China’s transformation to develop its economy through



domestic consumption.” The 2010 Lunar New Year holiday generated 340 billion yuan in sales, a 17.2 percent increase from the previous year, and welcomed as a sign that spending was rising in China after the global economic crisis. The global financial crisis increased pressure on China to rebalance its economy by reducing its reliance

on exports for growth and spurring more domestic consumption. The growth mainly reflected consumers’ rising incomes, Lu said. Growth in rural incomes last year outpaced urban areas for the first time in 13 years, according to official statistics. The Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is the most important holiday in the Chinese

calendar -- families are reunited and people splash out on food, tobacco and liquor. The week-long holiday, which ended on Tuesday, is the only time that many of the country’s estimated 230 million migrant workers are able to visit home. Restaurants in the eastern province of Shandong, Shaanxi in the north and Heilongjiang in the northeast saw revenues jump by more than 20 percent from last year, while Shanghai saw revenues rise fourfold, the ministry said. “Expanding domestic spending will top the ministry’s agenda in 2011,” Yao Jian, a commerce ministry spokesman was quoted as telling the newspaper.□

Oil rises on expectations of Egypt regime change

Oil prices rose on expectations that Egypt’s president will step down, easing worries that oil shipments from the Middle East could be disrupted by ongoing protests. Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude rose 29 cents to \$87 per barrel in midday trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices climbed as high as \$88.28 earlier in the session. In London, Brent crude fell 63 cents to \$101.69 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange. Egypt’s military announced on national television that it stepped in to “safeguard the country” and assured protesters that President Hosni Mubarak will meet their demands. The chief demand is that Mubarak leave office. In Washington, the CIA chief said there was a “strong likelihood” Mubarak will step down Thursday. BNP Paribas Commodity Futures analyst Tom Bentz said that traders hope there is less chance of disruptions to oil supplies passing through the Suez Canal. He also said some uncertainty remains because a number of issues have to be sorted out, including who would succeed Mubarak. Egypt controls the Suez Canal and a nearby pipeline



that together bring about 2 million barrels of day from the Middle East to customers in Europe and America. That’s a relatively small amount compared with the 87 million barrels consumed worldwide every day. Oil prices also got a boost on the Paris-based International Energy Agency, which said global consumption should increase in 2011, exceeding 90 million barrels a day for the first time by the last quarter of the year. “With the global economy recovering, we’ve seen a recovery in demand as well, but supply has been more abundant than demand,” Bentz said. The Energy Department said that the nation’s natural gas supplies fell more than analysts expected last week, shrinking by 209 billion cubic feet to 2.144 trillion cubic feet.

Supplies have been dropping as homeowners turned up thermostats and utilities burned more gas to produce electricity, but not enough to drive up prices. Natural gas for March delivery fell 3 cents to \$4.013 per 1,000 cubic feet on the Nymex. It briefly fell below \$4 for the first time since mid-November, when the heating season was just starting for most of the country. Meanwhile, the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline was \$3.119 Thursday, according to AAA, Wright Express and the Oil Price Information Service. That’s 3 cents more than a month ago and 47.8 cents more than a year ago. In other Nymex trading in March contracts, heating oil fell 6 cents to \$2.7115 a gallon and gasoline fell 6 cents to \$2.4700 a gallon.□

Source: Google in talks to buy video maker Next New

NEW YORK — Google Inc.’s YouTube is in talks to buy video producer Next New Networks, according to a person familiar with the discussions. Privately held Next New Networks is best known as the producer of Web comedy shows like “Barely Political” and online cartoon network Channel Fredarator. YouTube is said to be interested in Next’s video development and partnership service for smaller video producers to help improve the quality of content on YouTube’s dominant Web video site. The company could consider

closing down Next New’s studios and invest more in development of partner videos, the person said. The goal for YouTube is to drive more views of its videos which, in a fast evolving Web content space, needs to offer higher quality to compete for eyeballs with professional offerings from the likes of Hulu, Netflix Inc and various broadcasters. Google has faced increased pressure from investors concerned that YouTube was not contributing to the company’s bottom line despite its domination of the online video space.□

Google, Facebook consider buying Twitter



NEW YORK — Google Inc. and Facebook Inc. have both held low-level talks with Twitter Inc. about purchasing the privately held social networking service, according to a report published Thursday. The talks have valued Twitter at \$8 billion to \$10 billion, The Wall Street Journal said, citing unnamed people familiar with the matter. The Journal said the company had 2010 revenue of \$45 million but lost money

as it hired and invested in data centers. Investors have shown keen interest in social networking services in recent months. Last month, daily coupon website Groupon raised \$950 million in financing after reportedly turning down Google’s offer to purchase it for \$6 billion. Facebook, which is privately held, is also said to have received \$500 million in new funding last month, including \$450 million from wealthy Goldman Sachs clients living outside the U.S., and \$50 million from a Russian investor. Also last month, LinkedIn, a social networking site geared toward professionals, filed to go public in an initial public offering worth up to \$175 million. Twitter and Facebook declined to comment. Google did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.□

iPhone-starved states welcome new gadget

FARGO, N.D. — Apple devotees in states largely disregarded under a formerly exclusive deal to distribute the iPhone rushed to stores to snap up the gadget early as Verizon Wireless entered the fray.

Phil Toso, the manager of a Verizon store in Baxter, Minn., said dozens of people showed up when the business opened at 7 a.m. The store normally opens at 10.

“The customers that are coming in are coming in for the iPhone,” Toso said.

At the West Acres Shopping Mall, Madison Bratz, 20, said her Android cell phone had been the “next best thing in Fargo,” but that she happily used up all her available funds to buy an iPhone when

AT&T’s exclusive deal ended. “I totally spent my whole paycheck but I don’t care,” the direct support specialist said, smiling. “I have waited so long for this. So long.”

Previously excluded from the iPhone club because of AT&T’s at-best spotty coverage in this part of the country, cell-phone users in areas of the Dakotas, Montana, Nebraska and Wyoming can now get the phone through the nation’s largest wireless carrier.

The initial turnout was not quite what some distributors apparently expected, although online pre-orders may have affected early sales.

Manager Robert Swope said he had 24 employees on hand to serve the expected

hoards of iPhone buyers at the Verizon store at the West Acres Shopping Mall in Fargo. About 25 shoppers were waiting in line when he opened the doors.

“I called an ‘all hands on deck day,’” Swope said, adding that he expected business to take off in the coming days. “I figure we’re going to stay pretty busy throughout the weekend.”

Existing Verizon customers were allowed to pre-order their iPhones for delivery before the deadline, and the company said it experienced record sales on the day it began accepting orders online.

Verizon officials declined to release figures on presales, but the manager of one North



Dakota outlet said interest had been steady ahead rollout.

“The demand is definitely there. A lot of people have been waiting a long time,” said Barry Stall, who runs a south Fargo store.

Nevertheless, movements on the New York Stock Exchange indicated the iPhone expansion had underwhelmed traders. In afternoon trading, shares of Verizon Communications Inc. were down 47 cents, or 1.3 percent, at \$36.20. Shares of

Apple Inc. were down \$2.83, or 0.8 percent, at \$355.30.

By contrast, shares of AT&T Inc. were up 35 cents, or 1.3 percent, at \$28.32.

Preston Stahley, a web developer in Billings, Mont., preordered his iPhone and received it last Tuesday. Stahley said he had been intrigued for years by the swirling rumors that a wireless operator other than AT&T would be allowed to distribute the iPhone. □

Nokia “close” to inking Windows Phone deal with Microsoft



Just days after his remarkable “burning platform” memo came to light, word has it that the new CEO of Nokia will put the ball in the air by announcing a game-changing deal with either Google or Microsoft and it looks like Microsoft may end up getting the nod. All Things Digital, Bloomberg News, and the Wall Street Journal are all reporting that Nokia boss and former Microsoft exec Stephen Elop has “held talks” with both Steve Ballmer and Microsoft and Google CEO Eric Schmidt about adopting either the Windows Phone or Android mobile platforms for

new Nokia handsets.

Elop is expected to make his intentions clear at an investor meeting Friday, and both Bloomberg and All Things Digital are predicting that Microsoft’s Windows Phone OS will get Nokia’s business. The news comes only a couple of days after Engadget published an extraordinary internal memo, purportedly penned by Elop himself, that likens Nokia’s still dominant but increasingly precarious position in the wireless market to a man standing on a “burning platform” and facing a stark choice: stay put and “inevitably be consumed

by the burning flames,” or “plunge 30 meters into the freezing waters.”

In case there was any confusion about the analogy, Elop went on to detail how Apple “disrupted the market” with the iPhone, while Android managed to pass Nokia’s lead in smartphone shipments in just two years.

Nokia, on the other hand, “had a series of misses,” with its promised high-end MeeGo platform still languishing in development and its older Symbian OS having “proven to be non-competitive in leading markets like North America,” Elop wrote. “How did we get to this point? Why did we fall behind when the world around us evolved?”

The leaked, unusually frank memo was soon followed by renewed chatter of high-level talks between Nokia, Microsoft, and Android, with Bloomberg reporting that a source “with knowledge of the discussions” claims that Nokia is “close to announcing a software partnership with Microsoft.” □

Obama promotes plan for near universal wireless



MARQUETTE, Mich. — Saying tomorrow’s economy can’t thrive on yesterday’s infrastructure, President Barack Obama on Thursday promoted his five-year plan to lure new industries and jobs to the U.S. by expanding high-speed wireless to 98 percent of the country. “It’s just like that movie, ‘Field of Dreams:’ If we build it, they will come,” Obama said in this snowy, Upper Michigan university town where many small businesses owe their success to high-speed Internet access. “For our families and businesses, high-speed wireless is the next train station, the next off-ramp, Obama said. “It’s how we’ll spark new innovation, new investments and new jobs,” he said at Northern Michigan University, a wired campus where the students telecommute. Obama’s goal is lofty considering that such technology is only now being built in major cities by AT&T, Verizon and other companies. It also will cost billions of dollars that Republicans are unlikely to want to spend. Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said he wanted to review whether some \$7 billion in stimulus money already dedicated to Internet broadband is having an effect “before we target any more of our scarce taxpayer dollars.” His committee is holding hearings on the issue. □

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The goal for YouTube is to drive more views of its videos which, in a fast evolving Web content space, needs to offer higher quality to compete for eyeballs with professional offerings from the likes of Hulu, Netflix Inc and various broadcasters.

Google has faced increased pressure from investors concerned that YouTube was not contributing to the company's bottom line despite its domination of the online video space.

The search giant is expected to pay "tens of millions of dollars" for the company and a deal may announced next week, according to the Wall Street Journal .

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Also last month, LinkedIn, a social networking site geared toward professionals, filed to go public in an initial public offering worth up to \$175 million.

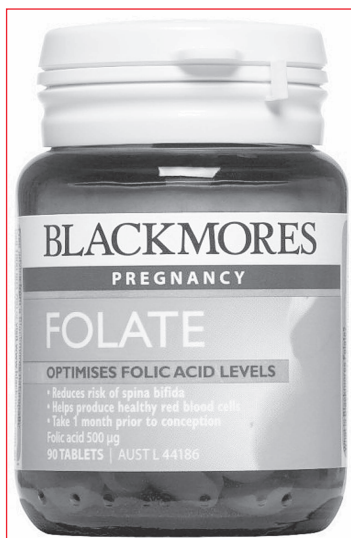
Twitter and Facebook declined to comment. Google did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment.



HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

Folate May Not Protect Against Premature Birth



In a study that included data on nearly 73,000 Norwegian women, researchers found that taking folate during pregnancy didn't appear to reduce the rate of premature births. Our data do not support a protective effect of folate on spontaneous preterm delivery frequency, but folate does not seem to have an adverse effect on pregnancy either," said study author Dr. Verena Sengpiel, from the department of obstetrics and gynecology

at Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Goteborg, Sweden.

This finding sharply contrasts with those of a U.S. study reported in 2008 that found that taking folate for a year before getting pregnant could drop the risk of preterm birth by as much as 70 percent.

However, despite this debate over preterm birth benefits, folate is still recommended by health experts before and during pregnancy because this important vitamin helps prevent neural tube defects, according to the March of Dimes. The synthetic, or supplement, version of folate is called folic acid.

The March of Dimes recommends that every woman of childbearing age take a multivitamin containing at least 400 micrograms of folic acid daily. Folate is found naturally in leafy green vegetables, broccoli, black beans, melon and peanuts. In addition, many foods have

been enriched with folic acid, such as breads and cereals.

The current study used information from the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study that included 72,989 children. Data for this study was gathered between 1999 and 2006, according to Sengpiel.

From that group, the researchers found 955 cases of spontaneous preterm birth. The researchers also identified 18,075 women for the control group. The women provided information on their folic acid intake during pregnancy at 17, 22 and 30 weeks.

Sengpiel said that most women in Norway are deficient in folate because foods aren't fortified in Norway as they are in the United States. Previous research in Norway has found that the average folate intake is about 250 micrograms, compared to the recommended 400 micrograms daily, she noted.

The researchers divided the

women into two groups based on their dietary folate intake, low or high, but they found no association between folate consumption and the rate of preterm delivery.

Sengpiel is scheduled to present the findings Thursday at the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine's annual meeting in San Francisco.

Experts note that research presented at meetings typically has not been subjected to the same scrutiny as studies published in peer-reviewed medical journals.

Of the differences between her study and previous findings, Sengpiel said that a number of factors could explain the difference. First, she noted

that the study populations were quite different, and there may be some genetic factors at play. Second, the study designs were different.

The studies that have found benefit for preterm birth rates looked at women who were getting sufficient folate for at least one year prior to conception.

"This is an interesting study, but I don't know that this study will lay to rest the idea that folate might lower the risk of preterm birth," said Dr. Peter Bernstein, a professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology and women's health at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. □

Study: Obesity Tied to Education, Income, but Not Suburbia



Low levels of education and income, but not suburban sprawl, are associated with higher rates of obesity, researchers report. The finding challenges the widely held view that people who live in cities tend to be thinner because they have more opportunities to walk,

while people in suburban and rural areas have to drive most everywhere they go. For this study, researchers analyzed data from about 7 million people in rural and urban counties in Illinois, including residents in the metropolitan Chicago area. Within zip codes, increased rates of

obesity were associated with being older and being male, along with the percentage of people who commute by car, are black or Hispanic, or own their homes, said the researchers at the Urban Transportation Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Rates of obesity were lower in zip codes with higher median income and more residents who had attended college. The findings could prove helpful in urban planning, according to research assistant professor Paul Metaxatos. "Ambitious land use policies to address obesity may have little success with the low-income ethnic minorities who are most in need of assistance," he said. □

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A black and white photograph showing a close-up of two gorillas. On the right, the large, dark face of an adult gorilla is partially visible, looking upwards. On the left, a younger gorilla with lighter, fluffier fur looks up at the adult's face. The young gorilla's hand is visible, resting on the adult's chest or arm. The background is out of focus, suggesting a natural habitat.

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Despido de periodista en México provoca controversia

MEXICO (AP) - El despido de una prominente periodista de una radiodifusora generó un debate sobre la libertad de expresión en México y acusaciones de que el gobierno aún mantiene control sobre los medios de comunicación. Carmen Aristegui dijo el miércoles que la despidieron por negarse a disculparse por sus comentarios emitidos el viernes en referencia al señalamiento de un legislador sobre un presunto alcoholismo del presidente Felipe Calderón.

Aristegui consideró que la acusación era grave y que Calderón debería responder al cuestionamiento, aunque el legislador no presentó evidencia.

Algunos funcionarios de la Presidencia habían dicho que tales rumores no merecen una respuesta, pero el secretario particular de Calderón, Roberto Gil, defendió el miércoles al mandatario en una breve conferencia de prensa.

Gil dijo que, el año pasado, Calderón asistió a 1.779 actos públicos, más o menos siete al día. “Durante los cuatro años de su administración, nunca ha faltado a actividad alguna por motivos de salud”, dijo. “Este ritmo de actividades es la mejor expresión de su buen estado de salud, de su fortaleza física y de su entereza”.

La empresa MVS anunció el lunes el cese de Aristegui



Un grupo de simpatizantes de la periodista mexicana Carmen Aristegui, protestan al frente del edificio de la estación de radio MVS en Ciudad de México, contra el despido de la comunicadora. (Foto AP/Alexandre Meneghini)

bajo el argumento de haber “transgredido” el código ético al dar “por válida una presunción” y negarse a ofrecer una disculpa pública como le solicitó la propia compañía.

“Un hecho así sólo es imaginable en las dictaduras que nadie quiere para México: castigar por opinar o cuestionar a los gobernantes”, dijo en conferencia de prensa la periodista, quien también conduce un programa nocturno en CNN en Español.

Algunos periodistas dicen que la libertad de expresión es complicada porque la

publicidad que compra el gobierno es una fuente importante de ingresos para muchas publicaciones, y la podría utilizar para influir. Aristegui dijo que su despido fue un acto autoritario. Señaló que MVS se encuentra bajo presión porque está en espera de que su concesión de radio sea renovada por el gobierno federal.

MVS no devolvió una llamada

telefónica hecha el miércoles en busca de declaraciones. Un funcionario del despacho de Calderón negó que la Presidencia haya pedido una disculpa e insistió en que ésta no tuvo nada que ver con el cese de Aristegui. La Presidencia mexicana calificó de “falsas” las especulaciones de presiones por parte del gobierno federal que, aseguró, es respetuoso de la libertad de

expresión.

“La Presidencia de la República rechaza haber tenido cualquier participación en la salida de la periodista Carmen Aristegui de MVS”, señaló en un comunicado horas después de las afirmaciones de la propia periodista de que su despido fue por presiones.

Sin hacer mención específica a la concesión de MVS, la Presidencia afirmó que cualquier decisión en materia de telecomunicaciones se toma con “transparencia y estricto apego a la ley, sin ninguna otra consideración más que la concordancia con los principios de cobertura, convergencia y competencia”. Aristegui abordó el viernes en su programa radial la sesión de la Cámara de Diputados del día anterior, la cual fue suspendida luego de que el diputado Gerardo Fernández Noroña, del opositor Partido del Trabajo, colocó en la tribuna una manta con una fotografía de Calderón y las preguntas: “¿Tú dejarías a un borracho conducir tu auto? ¿No, verdad? ¿Y por qué lo dejas conducir el país?”.

La periodista dijo el miércoles que no piensa disculparse. □

Dominicana sancionará buque por ingresar a santuario de ballenas

SANTO DOMINGO (AP) - El ministerio de Medio Ambiente de República Dominicana sancionará a un buque de bandera singapurense por ingresar al área protegida del santuario de ballenas jorobadas, en la norteña bahía de Samaná. El vocero de Medio Ambiente, Mayo Rodríguez, dijo el jueves a la AP que la nave Blue Emerald, matrícula 9419723 y de 183 metros de eslora, “ingresó al área protegida sin notificar su entrada y no acató el llamado de salida” que le hicieron las autoridades. El buque, que transporta combustible, sufrió una avería en uno de sus motores cuando pasaba frente a la costa oriental de la isla, por lo que la compañía

dominicana que lo maneja, Agencias Navieras B&R, decidió remolcarlo a la zona de Samaná, a unos 250 kilómetros al noroeste de la capital. Mayo detalló que, según el informe realizado por el departamento de protección ambiental del ministerio, la presencia del buque representa un peligro porque puede golpear y ahuyentar a los cetáceos. Recordó que el mes pasado comenzó la temporada en la que -según estimaciones de medio ambiente- unas 2.000 ballenas jorobadas llegan desde el Atlántico norte para parir y para aparearse en el Caribe, especialmente en la Bahía de Samaná y el Banco de la Plata, en la costa norte. Aunque las autoridades

medioambientales fijarán la sanción legal y económica en los próximos días, el buque fue obligado a salir de la zona la víspera, ya fue reparado y continuó su ruta de Houston a Saint Croix, una de las islas Vírgenes Estadounidenses. Agencias Navieras B&R aseguró a la AP a través de un vocero que el buque no violó ninguna ley, ya que “no se ha publicado ninguna prohibición” para atracar en la zona. La Bahía de Samaná fue declarada en 1986 por el gobierno dominicano como “Santuarios de mamíferos marinos”. Cifras del ministerio de turismo indican que cerca de 25.000 turistas visitan la zona durante la temporada de ballenas, de enero a abril. □

Presidente Santos limita actividades por gripe

BOGOTA (AP) - Debido a una gripe, el presidente Juan Manuel Santos trabajará sólo dentro de la casa de gobierno por recomendación médica y limitó sus giras, se informó el jueves oficialmente.

“Por recomendación médica lo que va a hacer (el mandatario) es trabajar en palacio” de gobierno, dijo la vocera Adriana Vargas en entrevista telefónica.

Ya el 8 de febrero, la presidencia informó en un breve comunicado que Santos había cancelado un acto previsto para ese día en la ciudad caribeña de Barranquilla por la gripe que lo aqueja desde el sábado.

Santos, de 59 años, tenía previsto en la jornada asistir a dos distintos actos en Bogotá, donde en los últimos días se han presentado intensas lluvias. No se ha informado cuándo retomará Santos sus actividades plenas. □

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